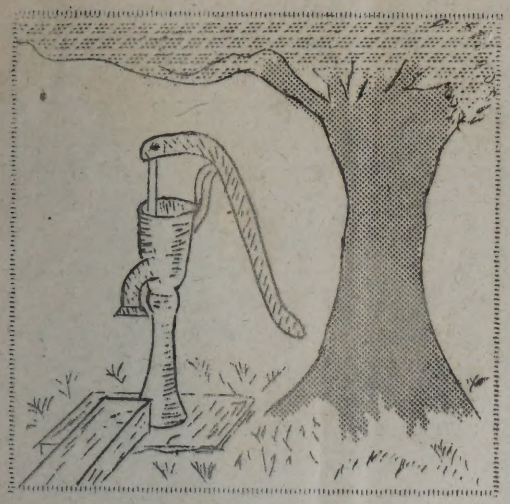


THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL 2 JULY 1945 NO 2

GOINGS ON

Perhaps a fleeting review of what has been hitting the headlines at home may be of some interest. The Peace Conference at San Francisco has had top billings and has just concluded. The technicalities and legalities of the treaty are beyond most of us but we do feel that major differences have been settled and if we can fight united we certainly should be able to maintain a united peace.

All the folks of course are just as much interested as you are in the points necessary for discharge, and the chance that the boys in Europe will get a furlough home before going on.

The food situation is worse with meats, sugar and fats a nd oils taking the worst licking. As usual they are "passing the buck" on the blame, but the facts remain there are critical shortages, even though most of us are pretty well conditioned to the lack of meat.

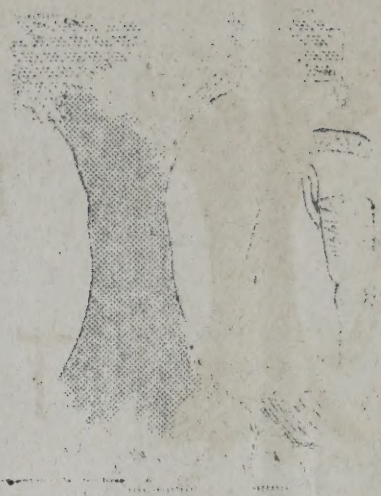
The gas situation has eased off - temporarily - for they promise less supply at the end of August. In the meantime the cars are more numerous, and Willard Brook has all the appearance of a Coney Island Crowd on the weekends. Incidentally, the State Legislature has just approved a bill to purchase and develop the Brook from Sheldon Bridge to Wilder's Mill. It should be a grand thing for it is a very beautiful spot.

We have our usual "beef" about the weather. This time it's the rain, more rain, thunder showers and humid heat. We have had a few thunder storms that would even make some battles seem like child's play. And our rain storms seem to come so frequently and so regularly that we are beginning to wonder if perhaps you boys in the Pacific aren't wishing some of your weather on us.

We have a new gadget in town-new to Ashby anyway. It is Wallace Walker's hay baler. Pulled by a tractor, the baler just scoops up the hay pushes it over to a plunger box, where it is compressed, tied into a very neat 70 pound bale, and dropped off. It is quite a sight to see the contraption moving along a field and dropping off 4 or 5 bales a minute .

Some of the plants in Fitchburg have begun to curtail their production, but the need for workers still exceeds the available supply and probably will until well into the fall. It is not anticipated that there will be any great amount of unemployment even in the future as Fitchburg's industries are well diversified and expect good business for several years after V-J Day.

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP



A letter from Leslie Kincaid is almost as good as a trip to China. He is now with the Chinese Combat Command but is unable to reveal just what he is doing. "I have traveled hundreds of miles by every type of transportation except horseback and in the case of the latter I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

There have been many interesting experiences -- some funny, some not so funny -- but I'm getting along fine, learning to speak Chinese and can make out O.K. with chopsticks. The Chinese language isn't so hard to learn to speak, it is the reading and the writing that is the hard part and learning to speak enough of it to get along is all that I'm doing.

The Chinese people are very friendly but, like every place else, double and triple the prices when they see an American. The money here is very badly inflated. We pay $ 300 to $ 500 a day for Chinese laborers, $ 35 to $ 40 for one egg, a laundry bill will run from $ 250 to $ 1500, that is what will happen with no price and wage control and no curb on the printing of money. There is no official rate of exchange for American dollars to Chinese dollars so we have to resort to the black market where the rate varies from day to day.

There are no paved roads here and the mountains are tremendous. Some of them have as many as 24 steps and horshoe curves to reach the top, with some of the curves so tight that a truck will have to back and cut a couple of times to make it. To go over the edge would mean a drop of 50 to 500 feet or more. With mountains like this the scenery is naturally very beautiful.

Supplies are very scarce here and we live on Chinese food, mainly, rice, pork and eggs being the main menu. American cigarettes are very scarce and Chinese cigarettes are terrible but there are times when we have nothing else to smoke. Writing paper is also scarce and that is why when I make a mistake I correct it and don't write the page over.

As to the proposed new hall in Ashby, I think it is a swell idea. It would mean something to future generations. Just make it large enough to accommodate the activities that will center around it but not so large that its upkeep would be a burden. Make the planning committee a representative group of all groups and I'm sure that the plans will be right."

Xmas is Coming

This little item is directed to the Townsfolk who help the "Town Pump" each month by leaving a donation when they pick up an issue at either Bedard's "Red and White" or Jim Allen's store. We appreciate what you have given, but do you suppose you could drop in a little more each time ?

We are starting to look forward to Xmas and gifts, and boys and girls in the service. It all adds up to a lot, an awful lot of money for some 110 boys and girls, and our treasury is not exactly bulging.

Incidentally, the money you drop in the box goes towards the Xmas fund, for there are no expenses except postage taken out. The paper, the stencils, the mimeographing, the typing and all labor are gladly donated.

Will you donate a little more? If you have already taken a copy how about dropping in a little more jingle jangle the next time you go to the store?

Thank you.

Sports Slant

The Boston ball clubs are doing all right, with the Red Sox and their rookie pitcher, Ferriss, they are up in third place; and the climbing Boston Braves with their leading hitter, Tommy Holmes (leading both leagues with .403) are in sixth place.

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GRANGE NEWS

As usual Ashby Grange has been just as busy this past month as the preceeding ones and now that summer is here everyone is busier than usual with their gardens and outdoor activities and getting ready for our Sept. Grange Fair, raising and making articles for exhibition in competition for prizes offered by the Grange. We hope to make this event the highlight of the year. There will be a Band Concert and as near like the old time fairs as is possible under present conditions.

The last two Grange meetings have been very interesting and of a patriotic nature, with our Chaplain conducting the annual Memorial Service. Our next meeting is our annual picnic afternoon and evening at Elmer Mason's Camp at Wards Pond. We hope the weather man will give us some ideal picnic weather. The Worthy Master will be on her vacation, so the Worthy Overseer will be in charge.

The Worthy Lecturer held a Basket Lunch Social and Entertainment at the First Parish Hall which was attended by the young folks, who had such a grand time that by popular demand we will try to hold more of those socials throughout the summer.

At the June Pomona meeting held in Lunenburg the 5th degree was conferred on a class of 29 candidates with 2 of those members from Ashby. Everything went well in spite of the very hot weather and we received a very high score.

Ashby Grange has been visiting on invitation a large group of members neighbored with Greenville Grange to present a 20 minute program. The Police Association hold their annual meeting in our Town Hall and a group from our Grange provided and served them refreshments. The Building Fund Committee has purchased a $ 100 War Bond with proceeds from the paper products sold.

Again there are to be added to our service flag two more stars .Paul Bernhardt has joined the Merchant Marines and Emil Deockal is leaving very soon for induction into the Army.

ABOUT TOWN

An extensive waste paper drive is being conducted by the Jarcy Club under the supervision of John Mossman. There will be house to house pick-ups on two Sundays: July 8th and July 22nd.

Plans are being made for Red Cross swimming classes to be held at the Willard Brook reservation as soon after July 1st as arrangements can be made. Over 40 youngsters have signed up.

Mrs. Stella Treworgy has returned home from the hospital and will be confined to her bed for at least seven weeks.

Well, the Band Concert season is underway once again and it seemed so good to be up on the Common seeing so many friends, and watching the youngsters run around the band stand. It's a big night for them.

There was a large crowd there to enjoy an excellent concert. Believe it or not, Mrs. Bernhardt was able to secure over 20 lbs. of hot dogs in these days of rationing. They used to get over 40 lbs. There were hot dogs and soda pop for all.

The concerts are to be held on Wednesday evenings this summer.

Marriage

Tauno A. Novala, West Rd., Ashby, and Mrs. Bernice Coleman D'Angellillo, Chester, Mass.

Births

A son, Brian Hayes, to Pvt. and Mrs. Elmer R. Lombard, of Taunton. Mrs. Lombard is the former Lois Hayes.

ASHBY HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Graduation ceremonies began with the Baccalaureate sermon delivered by Rev. Charles O. Eames of Leominster in the Unitarian Church. A union choir sang, and

Mrs. Lora Piper was organist. The graduating class was marshaled by William Tiilikkala, class of '46.

The Senior class reception was held in the First Parish Hall, sponsored by the junior class. Eddie Hamilton's orchestra furnished music.

Graduation took place in the Congragational Church on Friday, June 15th. Five members of the class were present to receive diplomas: Harold Brand, Jr., Donald Rackliffe, Irma Haapala, Evelyn Simonds and Albert Schlemmer, who was unexpectedly able to be present. Walfred Hill, the other member of the class, is in the army, and his diploma was given to his aunt, Mrs. Aho.

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The Alumni Association met in First Parish Hall on Saturday evening with Kenneth Stone presiding.

New officers were elected as follows: President, Lois Lord; Vice-President, Fred A. Foresman; Secretary and Treasurer, Marion Hugo; Board of Directors, Waino I. Pernaa, Carl Foster and the officers.

A committee consisting of Cora Foresman, Kenneth Stone and Martha Foster was appointed to bring to the next meeting, words suitable for an alumni song. (Now is your chance to submit a "lyric" for this masterpiece. All entries will be given most careful consideration.)

A social hour followed, with games and refreshments, under the supervision of Mary Curran, Cora Foresman and Lois Lord.

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V-E Day in Europe meant perhaps more to Mrs. Bertha Elliott than to any other mother in Ashby. She had three sons in the midst of the fighting in France, Belgium and Germany. They are; Sgt. Clarence Elliott, Cpl. Warren Elliott and Pvt. Wallace Elliott.

Clarence, whom we all remember as "Clary", worked on the town high-ways at the time of his induction, August 18, 1942. He received training at Camp Lee, Virginia, Camp Edwards, Fort Ethan Allen, Pine Camp, N.Y. and Camp Myles Standish.

He left for overseas in November 1943 and landed in Scotland While in England for six months, he had several chances to see the country and also part of Wales. He landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944 and took part in the severe fighting in France and Belgium.

On one of his furloughs, he visited Paris and while in Belgium had an enjoyable visit with his brother Wallace. During Clarence's fighting in Europe, he traveled through eight countries. He has seven battle stars.

Warren Elliott was inducted into the army September 5, 1941. He received training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Camp Polk, La., Camp Peckett, Va., Fort Dix, N.J. and Camp Shanks, N.Y.

He arrived in England in November 1943 and for 11 months was in steady combat in France, Belgium and Germany.

On May 7, 1945, he was flown to an English hospital where he received treatment for several weeks. He returned to this country June 22, 1945, after being overseas 19 months.

Wallace Elliott, the youngest of the three brothers, was inducted into the army at Fort Devens on June 30, 1943. He received training at Camp Carson, Col. and in Tennessee.

He left for overseas on May 2 nd, 1944 landing in Bristol, England on May 14th.

He landed in France July 19, 1944 and took part in several battles after the break-through.

After the re-capture of Brest, France, he was sent to Belgium. During the pursuit of the Germans in the final weeks of the war, he reached a place only a few miles from Berlin.

He is now in Belgium with a detachment repairing an airport.

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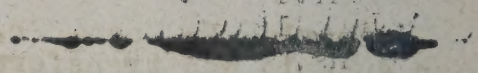

to a troopship with a capacity of 750 troops. Within two or three weeks he expects to be on the move again.

Pfc. Richard Leighton is at home on a thirty-day furlough. He spent 15 months on Munda, New Georgia Island in the South Pacific. On July 6th he will report back to Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Last Christmas, Dick's grandmother, thinking that she had the perfect gift, sent Dick a can of SPAM - the one thing they had too much of. When Dick was asked what he did with the SPAM, they found he used it as bait to catch a shark.

The Leightons just received a telegram from S-1/C Robert stating that he had arrived in San Francisco and would be at home in a few days. He left the states in October and has been carrying supplies in the Pacific area. Late Flash!!! Bob is home! On a 30-day leave - so he and Dick will be able to spend just one day together- the first in two years.

Paul Heikkila was recently home prior to reporting to his destroyer-- with destination Cuba.

Polly Hopkins has left for Norfolk, Va. to join her husband Ensign Chester Hopkins while he is stationed there.

Claire Lambert Newcombe is leaving shortly for Georgia to visit her husband "Jimmie" who is stationed at Camp Gordon.

Sgt. Robert Piper, who recently returned from 42 months service in the Southwest Pacific, is home on furlough and was in the Philippines, Fiji, Bougainville and Cebu.

"Bud" had been away so long he didn't recognize his sister, Elizabeth or his cousin, "Dick".

"Bud" expects to be discharged under the point system very shortly.

Donald Rackliffe, Paul Bernhardt and Harold Brand have all joined the Merchant Marine, and are receiving their basic training at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y.

Ernest Holmes is now hospitalized at Cushing General Hospital in Framingham, Mass., after many months overseas. He has been home for a few days at a time. One of the many stories he has to relate is that of having "grass soup" to eat while in prison camp.

We have just heard that Donald Rackliffe and Paul Bernhardt have been assigned to an advanced Engineering course at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y.

Warren Elliott has just returned home for a 30-day furlough and reports are that he looks fine after his months in the hospitals. Although eligible for discharge on the point system his future course is still undecided.

It is generally admitted that the young folks are slipping for the work done on the 4th of July eve was far from being up to par. The ingenuity of the good old days seems to be lacking. Perhaps when some of our engineers and seabees get back home they'll show the oldtimers a thing or two.

Remember the stories about the hay wagon with a full load sitting on top of the corner store, and the calf that was found way up in the church steeple. Those were feats that took real imagination and work, and are a far cry from the common sight of snow fences and junk.

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Modern maiden's prayer: "Dear Lord, please bring him back safe, sound and single."

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In the parlor there were three
She, the parlor lamp and he,
But three is company, no doubt,
So the little lamp went out.